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POOR MEDICAL SERVICE IN TADZHIK SSR

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Recently planned programs for the reconstruction of the therapeutic and prophylactic network of the Tadzhik SSR have made great demands on the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately, as will be seen later, the Ministry has not been doing its share of the work. It has not sent a single itinerant medical group into populated points of the rayon.

Of the 17 reports submitted to the February and March competitions, only two were judged. There is a flagrant disregard for even the most basic administrative detail. The Ministry further fails to instruct its doctors in the ideals of the Soviet medical service, and frequently the doctor's own selfish interests are permitted to interfere with his duty to his patient. Complaints substantiating this have been received from Isfahin Rayon, Leninabad Oblast, and Tavil'-Darin Rayon, Garm Oblast.

In several cases the Ministry of Health sent its representatives to so-called trouble spots. However, in most cases this led to even greater misunderstanding and inefficiency.

Although Lavrov, the Minister of Health, his representatives, and the heads of some of the large hospitals have made field trips to investigate the operation of medical organizations in their areas, these trips are extremely rare and the investigation has been most superficial.

For the past 3 years the number of doctors in the SSR has been gradually increasing. The various rural medical organizations are among the best staffed in the USSR. However, they are far from being the best qualified since very few of the doctors are interested in improving themselves by attending the various refresher and specialization courses available. For the most part, the work of the doctors is haphazard. Either they do not care to make use of or are unacquainted with the services which clinical, pathological, and other

- 1 -

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laboratories offer. Again, it is the fault of the Ministry of Health for not educating the doctors properly. None of the hospitals or medical organizations seem to have any conception of the urgent medical problems of the day. There is no doubt that the Ministry has good intentions; it intended to send 10 phthisiatrists to specialization schools but actually sent only two. This same pattern has repeated over and over again. The only factor preventing a complete breakdown is the remarkably fine job being done by certain individuals who in spite of the inefficiency of the Ministry are able to turn out a fair number of specialists who operate their hospitals efficiently and who treat their patients in a manner worthy of a Soviet doctor.

The apothecary network must be improved and many other aspects of the prophylactic and therapeutic network are in need of reorganization and improvement; however Lavrov, the Minister of Health seems unconcerned. The people of Tadzhikistan are demanding a change in the present medical administration.

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- 2 -

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